

Serial No.: 09/987,376
Examiner: Stephen E. Jones

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 64, 66, 68, 71, 77, and 78 remain in this application.

All of the claims remaining in the application have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishitobi (JP 09148810) in view of Blum et al. (US 4,691,179). The Examiner has stated that Ishitobi teaches a triple mode block resonator with shielding on the outer surface, and that Blum teaches removed rectangular slot portions of the outer conductor. Additionally Matsumoto et al. (US 2001/0028287) is cited with the rejection of canceled claims 67 and 76 to show a teaching of providing circular removed portions of the metallization of a dielectric resonator.

Ishitobi, Blum, and Matsumoto do not address the problem of tuning a triple mode block resonator. The special problem of such a resonator is that a change intended to change one resonant frequency of the resonator is likely to change one of the other resonant frequencies as well. Applicants have described how to achieve a resonator filter assembly wherein one frequency is tuned without substantially altering the others.

Claim 64, and claims 66, 68, 71, and 78, dependent thereon, have been amended to include the details of Applicants' resonator filter assembly. It is submitted that nothing found in any of the cited references, individually or considered together, suggests the design of Applicants' claimed invention or even the problem solved thereby. Accordingly, it is submitted that these claims are patentable over the cited prior art.

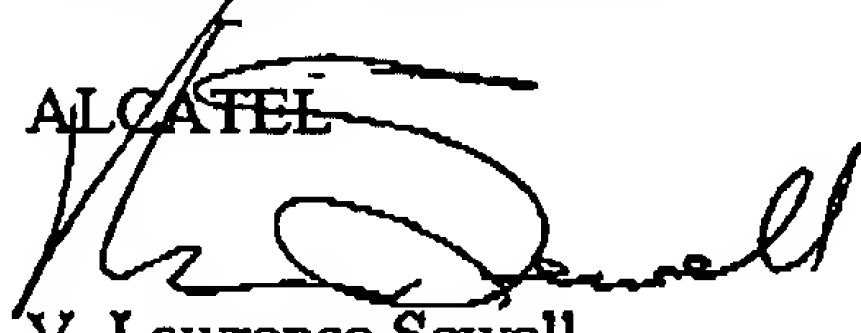
Claim 77 has been amended to include features of Applicants' invention previously recited in claims 40, 47, and 54, but not included in the present set of claims. Claims 40, 47, and 54 were not previously rejected based on prior art. Accordingly, it is believed claim 77 is in condition for allowance.

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For the above reasons, it is believed the foregoing Amendment places the Application in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through an interview, he/she is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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